

MINUTES – JUNE 24, 2013

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners reconvened in special session at the Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 24, 2013. Members present: Cathy W. Lucas, Chair, Kenneth D. Travis, Vice-Chairman, William E. Carter, Larry G. Hamlett, Nathaniel Hall, Jeremiah Jefferies and N. Kent Williamson. Also present: Kevin B. Howard, County Manager, Gwen Vaughn, Finance Director, Sheriff Michael Welch, Jeff Sicz, EMS Director, and Angela Evans representing the Caswell Messenger. Paula P. Seamster, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Chair Lucas stated “We will reconvene the budget work shop from June 19, 2013. Kevin I thought first I would just ask you to give us an overview of what you know from the State budget that will affect the county’s budget. I know this is off the cuff but on these legislative updates that we get.”

Mr. Howard stated “Probably the biggest thing that has been discussed would be the tax changes. Each version is different. The Senate’s version is different from the House’s version and that could have a negative effect on our sales tax revenues. The Senate’s version and I am going off the top of my head, the Senate’s version would cause us to lose about \$300,000 in sales tax revenues because they would do away with the tax all together. They would give you the opportunity to add that back through a referendum but you would lose that outright.” Chair Lucas asked “And this is the property tax revenues?” Mr. Howard responded “No this is the sales tax. Part of this is actually taking away some of the local government sales taxes but giving you the opportunity to add it back on a referendum.” Chair Lucas asked “Are you familiar with the Economic Development changes that are being proposed through the Department of Commerce as far as going to non-profit?” Mr. Howard responded “Yes just a little bit but I am not sure how that will affect us.” Chair Lucas continued “It could possibly have some affect on us. Anyway I just wanted to see where we stood.” Mr. Howard continued “But for us actually the Senate or the House it breaks even or we actually get some revenues.” Chair Lucas asked “And the lottery funds money 40% of the funds going to counties was eliminated in the Senate budget but maintained in the House budget, do we have an update on that?” Mr. Howard responded “No ma’am. I just try to keep up with the ones that have an impact on our overall budget.” Chair Lucas continued “The unfunded mandate requiring counties to pay for non-county volunteer fire and EMS workers’ comp. are you familiar with that one? The House limits exposure for counties and delays implementation until 2016. The Senate requires counties to cover any shortfalls. You don’t know what the status is on that?” Mr. Howard responded “No.” Chair Lucas stated “Anyway those are the things I thought the Board might need to be aware of for future purposes.”

(At 5:05 Commissioner Williamson entered the meeting.)

Commissioner Hall asked “If I may Madam Chair. I would like to go back to your last comment as it relates to volunteer fireman and EMS. I don’t think we have been paying their workers’ comp. in the past.” Chair Lucas responded “We have not.” Commissioner Hall continued “It

that changes it will hit us in a week or two. It will be significant if we are forced to do that. Back up to economic development the discussions are to set up a private foundation to dismantle the current 7 economic development regions and then put them back together as 8 economic development regions. It does not make any sense to me but surely we will probably lose something in the process.” Chair Lucas responded “May we could end up being the 8th one. Well nothing like being hopeful.”

Chair Lucas stated “This Senate Bill 490 excludes custom software for property tax. Are we familiar with that one? It says it removes the property tax base. Any upgrades or modifications made to computer software or any modifications to software further done internally by the tax payer or externally by a third party to meet the customer’s specified needs. The House pushed back the implementation date to taxable years beginning July 1, 2014 to allow for counties that have already adopted budgets for this year and included the assessed value of any software upgrades in their tax base. The House approved it in the second reading on Thursday with the third reading scheduled for next week. That had to do with software upgrades and where are we with that right now with ACS?” Mr. Howard responded “I don’t think that would affect us. I am assuming that would affect the business personal property when you upgrade your software and spend that money that will not be included in business personal property. Thomas will have to explain how to deal with that because I don’t know how he looks at that now.”

EMS DEPARTMENT

Chair Lucas stated “Next we will hear from the EMS Department.”

Mr. Howard stated “I would like to go over the property tax issue if I could first.” Chair Lucas asked “Aren’t we going to talk about this after these presentations?” Mr. Howard responded “That is fine.” Commissioner Hall stated “I guess you could go ahead and announce it.” Mr. Howard stated “I think I have discussed this with all the commissioners except for Commissioner Williamson. You know after I proposed the budget I got an updated tax value from Thomas at the Tax Office. I had some concerns about the number and I asked him to double check it and we were told it was accurate. We went back about a week or a week and a half ago and asked him to look at it again because we were getting close to adopting the budget, the numbers seemed too large. We go the numbers back today and what you have in front of you breaks down what was originally told versus what the numbers are today and we are losing about \$115,000,000 in tax value which equates to \$740,000.”

Chair Lucas asked “Okay Kevin so when we went through the revenue budget worksheet you had in there in your total \$9,417,484 and we changed it to \$10,336,107 which gave us the \$589,598 excess taxes and what you are telling us now is that number was not correct. So if that number is not correct we are going back to \$9,597,354 a \$738,752 shortfall?” Mr. Howard responded “Yes ma’am.” Chair Lucas continued “Does everybody understand what was just talked about? I think we are planning to discuss this later. Right now we will go ahead and hear from Mr. Sicz with the EMS Department.”

Mr. Jeff Sicz stated “Thank you ma’am before I sit down I know you were interested in seeing this Sprinter ambulance. There is one out front. I don’t know how you would like to proceed.

Would you like to see that first or at all but it is out there.” Chair Lucas responded “We will take a look at it.”

The Board went outside of the courthouse to look at a Sprinter ambulance.

Commissioner Carter asked “How much is that one Jeff versus a regular one?” Mr. Sicz responded “\$80,000.”

Chair Lucas stated “I think that maybe that is where we can start the conversation because that was one of the big questions asked. Remounting as opposed to looking at the option of purchasing the van type unit so difference in cost is?” Commissioner Travis responded “You are probably looking at about \$25,000 right?” Mr. Sicz responded “Yes sir.”

Mr. Sicz stated “All I ask is that you remember is when we need the space is in crisis situations. I will confess up and down that the routine run to take them wherever there is plenty of room and it is what I want to do that with but when we need the space. The young lady that was doing the talking is a small lady but I have some pretty healthy people and to put them in the back of that ambulance and to try to work a patient you are not doing justice for the patient.”

Commissioner Carter asked “How many non-emergency or covalence calls do you answer?” Mr. Sicz responded “Non-emergency and covalence in our world are different terms. Maybe a better way to answer it is about probably somewhere around 40% of our calls are ALS, advanced life support, where we may need to do that. Maybe 20% were are doing heart attacks, traumas, strokes the ones where we really need the room. Again I am not going to lie and say we have all these large amounts of where we need it no it is not true. It is an insignificant amount that we need all the space but it is when it is important.” Commissioner Carter asked “If you got one like this how many big units would you still have?” Mr. Sicz responded “We still have 207 & 204 which are relatively new. There is somewhere around 70,000 miles if not less. We have 205 and 203 that are really close to 200,000 miles and then 202 has 243,000 miles. Now 203 is sitting over there. It has a problem and help me out if I make a mistake there is an exhaust system that connects to the turbo some of the bolts broke on it because of wear and tear and heat exchange. That is what I was told so we are not using it unless it is dyer emergency. We can run it but it will definitely affect it if we use it.” Chari Lucas asked “What year model is 203?” Mr. Sicz responded “203 has somewhere around 200,000 miles on it ma’am. It is under 200,000.” Chair Lucas continued “But it is what year model?” Mr. Sicz responded “2009 I believe.”

Commissioner Travis asked “What would it cost to fix that truck?” Mr. Sicz responded “To fix 203 it is \$3700 because you have to lift the cab. Now 205 that we are using has a problem with 2 of the injectors. Some of you may remember a while back we had some problems with some of the injectors on some of the engines. Well all the symptoms we are having with this ambulance now are the exact same symptoms: occasional lose of power, the blue smoke, all the same symptoms. That is at the shop and that is going to be \$2500 to fix. That one I have to fix.”

Commissioner Travis asked “To put what just 2 injectors in it?” Mr. Sicz responded “You have to lift the cab according to the mechanic.” Commissioner Travis asked “How much would it cost to replace all of them?” Mr. Sicz responded “I don’t know that answer sir. If you do the math real quick there is what 8.” Commissioner Travis stated “I know how many are in it but what I am saying is this is the way I would look at it if I were working on it. You are going to have the

cab off the truck. You are going to pay the labor there one time. You are going to pay the labor to tear into the engine. How much more would it cost to replace the rest of the injectors and then you have a whole set of injectors in it?" Mr. Sicz responded "It might be worth the value. I understand what you are saying." Commissioner Travis continued "Because if you go and put it back together and run it a week and then another injector goes out the labor is going to be the same thing again." Mr. Sicz responded "Yes sir." Commissioner Travis asked "Where is the truck at?" Mr. Sicz responded "205 is at Piedmont waiting for me to say yes to fix it." Chair Lucas asked "Is that 203 or 205?" Mr. Sicz responded "203 has a different problem Ms. Lucas." Chair Lucas continued "It is the one that is not in service." Mr. Sicz responded "That is correct."

(At 5:20 p.m. Commissioner Hamlett entered the meeting.)

Commissioner Hall asked "Is this relevant to the budget?" Chair Lucas responded "When you are asking about the purchase of a new one I think we need to know where we stand." Mr. Sicz stated "The original plan, really quick, was we would get the new one. Get rid of 202 and 203. That would take us down to 3 ambulances. We would get the new one and that would make the 4th ambulance. We would have the 3 new ambulances that are partially under warranty and use the older ambulance as a backup and then have the sprinter to do the covalence runs and as a secondary backup. With the PMS system we are using where there is occasionally a truck in the garage we need a backup when that one is in the garage. That was the original plan. We would get rid of 202 and 203 and get some money out of them. We would have 3 ambulances that one is certainly under warranty and two that are under partial warranty and then the backup ambulance would be 205 in which we are getting the injectors fixed on. So in essence we would have 3 brand new ambulances and a just fixed backup and the sprinter as a secondary backup and a covalence truck."

Commissioner Jefferies asked "What would happen if you had two of these small ambulances and keep 3 of your big ones and have these small ones to use normally to run up and down the road?" Mr. Sicz responded "Yes sir I understand it and please don't take this sarcastic we will make it work. We will make it work and if we got 2 new ones to sacrifice one big new one I would take that deal. I just have to always think about the patient care. There may be that time when we would have somebody in the back but it is better to have that extra room to do what we need to do. We are actually remodeling how we are going to redo the insides of the trucks so we can have more space in them. If you look at one of our ambulances they have that seat that sits across from the bench, there is no need for that seat. We are going to get rid of it. Some of the cabinets there is a lot of space in the cabinets and the way we put our supplies into spaces we have them in shoe boxes for a lack of a better term we are going to design the truck so a shoe box fits into each space that way we are saving that extra space. We are trying to do little things like that. The bench is actually not needed. The bench is there for storage and we really don't need that storage. So what we are going to do is we are going to put four arms down there so if we have to take an additional patient we can lower the arms and put the backboard across there and still work on that patient but if we don't have a second patient we can raise those arms and have that extra room back there for us to actually work. Now this one is way out in left field but one of the designs we had was to put a stretcher actually in the middle of the ambulance and put for a lack of a better term a bass boat chair and a rail so we can move around the patient and lock down that way we don't have that set chair in the way all the time. We are trying to save extra

space like that.” Commissioner Jefferies asked “In the remodeling like you just said how much of an extra cost will that be?” Mr. Sicz responded “There should be actually no more cost.” Commissioner Jefferies continued “So you can buy 2 of those for what it would cost to buy one of the larger ambulances?” Mr. Sicz responded “It would be roughly \$160,000 for two of the Sprinters and roughly \$107,000 for one of the regular ones.”

Chair Lucas asked “What are your 3 front unit ambulances?” Mr. Sicz responded “207 which I think is the International, 204 and then 205 is our next front line. I am sorry 202 is our next one. 203 is in the shop and 205 is in the shop.”

Commissioner Williamson asked “Do we have partnerships with other ambulance services in adjoining counties?” Mr. Sicz responded “We have mutual aid agreements, yes sir.” Commissioner Williamson continued “Right and you can call them if they need to be called in to do a transfer or something for you?” Mr. Sicz responded “Yes sir.”

Chair Lucas asked “So the 2011 F-550 is that not being utilized as a front line ambulance? This is what we have on our insurance coverage and I am showing a 2008 ambulance, a 2003 which is not in service, another 2008, a 2011 F-550, a 2012 type 1 remount conversion, a 2007.” Mr. Sicz responded “The 2012 and the 2011 are our two front line trucks. That is 207 and 204. 205 is at Piedmont Ford waiting for me to tell them to fix it. 203 is also broke. That is the one with the turbo exhaust problem. 205 is the one with the injector problems and 202 we just spent in the last couple of months about \$2,000 to fix to make sure it was safe to drive. It had an alignment problem that we finally solved.”

Chair Lucas asked “I did have a question about your part time salaries; there was an increase to \$75,000 I think in this year’s budget. I know you put in for 3 additional people but you did not get that in your budget. You have 17 or 18 employees now?” Mr. Sicz responded “17 full time yes ma’am. That includes myself and Mr. Lynch.” Chair Lucas continued “And your part time is used for vacation purposes and...?” Mr. Sicz responded “Anything, vacation, disciplinary, sick, people going off to classes. We also use that budget for paying when we have mandatory training for the part time personnel. I have a sheet of paper that I will hand to you all. I think it explains in details the questions you have asked. Why do I have so much unscheduled part time expenditures? It also doubles as a reason to hire new people. Every time somebody is not at work we have to call somebody in. 72% of the time that person is a paramedic and it costs \$13.00 an hour. A sidebar to that, that is extremely low relative to the surrounding counties for a part time person but we have to call a part time person in. The paperwork shows you that roughly we spend \$75,000 is that right Ms. Vaughn I knew it was \$60,000 plus simply to fill those slots when people are sick, at school, on vacation, or for whatever reason they are not there. That explains where that money went. I will give you a second to digest that because then I will tell you about the scheduled part time.” Chair Lucas asked “I guess the question I have is when I first came back on the Board in 2010 you got 3 new people at that time with and I thought the justification then was to reduce your part time situation and it must not have worked out that way?” Mr. Sicz responded “I would like to leave the answer at this, yes ma’am it did not work out that way.” Mr. Howard responded “It reduced it but not as much as we thought it would.” Chair Lucas continued “Well as of June 30, 2012 it was \$140,000 and this year it is \$75,000.” Mr. Sicz stated “There was an increase in the amount of people disciplined for

extended period of time. We had a few people go to extended schools. We do some creative manning. Right now some of you know A.J. Fuqua well he has classes and every time he goes to school we have to bring a person in. That person will sign up for time and A.J. will work that person's time so basically they are exchanging times." Chair Lucas asked "Are you actually riding the ambulances?" Mr. Sicz responded "Yes ma'am. As a matter of fact I did today. I went to a call today and I took a lady to Annie Penn. We do fill in when there are people missing. I would really like the chance to explain my new people before you make it definite that I can't have them." Chair Lucas stated "Very briefly, please."

Mr. Sicz stated "Very briefly. If I get the people I want the paramedics, the basic it will reduce that number by 90% plus." Chair Lucas asked "The \$75,000?" Mr. Sicz responded "Yes ma'am and here is the reason why. I have this person here and a person calls in sick it is a paramedic I can put them right on the truck. If another person calls in sick then the training officer I want could be on the truck because he is a paramedic. That is another reason I would not have to call a part time person in. If I have the training officer that I am requesting, it would be a 9 to 5 person, Monday through Friday, if I have him we could conduct training every day, maybe once or twice a year we have to call part time people in for part time training. Again that will save money. If I have the part time people I want the training officer and the multi-function person and I will give you a sheet on that that will help us to have the covalence service because we would have all those people there. If the world falls apart you always have Barry and I as a backup for the truck so there are actually three stages of backup so we would not have to call a part time person in. Will all of this be 100%? No. Last Saturday we had a person on vacation and another person called in sick, the part time people would not have been there so we might have had to call a part time person in that time. This will allow us to have 3 ALS trucks 24 hours a day and right now we only have 2 ½. I was amazed with the new tracking system we have we found out that we actually do more runs after 19:30 at night than we do between 7:30 in the morning and 7:30 at night. I now numbers are not a good thing to talk about right now but I rechecked the data and it is true. We do more runs at night when we have less capabilities."

Chair Lucas asked "Is Barry answering calls routinely as well?" Mr. Sicz responded "Routinely is a relative term but when we need him yes he does. I have some more sheets of paper to give you. The top sheet is called the Multi-purpose person and the bottom is the training officer. As I said the training officer will be there from 9 to 5. He will be in charge of training and he will also be in charge of precepting. Precepting is when we get a new person in and they have to be trained to the way we do things. Everybody goes to the same school to be a paramedic or a basic but all the services have different innuendos and different things that we do that the other services don't. It should take about 2 months to train a person but if you don't have consistency in that training in which the training officer will allow in the precepting then it will take much longer. That is the training officer. Also the training officer will do a number of things. A big thing that is coming to light right now is as a matter of fact during the Durham Chiefs Association have met on it, it is called the Community Paramedicism. It is where hospitals lost a lot of money if they send a person home and that person comes back. So what the hospitals are doing now is for a lack of a better term they are recruiting paramedics to one or two days after a person has been release from a hospital to go check on that person to make sure they are taking their medicine, make sure they are being fed right and so forth and so on. I always get the two mixed up but I will say it is Medicaid will pay for paramedics to go out and do that now so not

only will be save money by having this training officer there conducting training and reducing the amount of time people have to come in and him being there to step on a truck if he needs to but he will also be making money because he will be going out to do these community paramedic runs. That is the training officer. Now the second person, the multi-purpose person is what I call it. I am not going to insult any of your intelligence you can read it but the bottom line is this person will be in charge of the covalence so to speak. They will do all the scheduling of the covalence runs. We have numerous people in the county that goes to wound clinics this should not tie up an advanced life support ambulance to do that. If we have this covalence ambulance and this person they can get on the truck and run that call. Again it is not only saving money but it is taking in more money. We are getting more money for that person. I can jump on the truck. Barry can jump on the truck. The training officer can jump on the truck. One of the additional paramedics could jump on the truck. With all the people in this and I understand the tightness of the budget not only is it going to save money but it will make money.” Chair Lucas asked “And Jeff there is no way with the 18 employees that you currently have you could restructure to where they could assist in those duties?” Mr. Sicz responded “Not without reducing the amount of advanced life support ambulances. Right now we have exactly the amount of people we need to run 2 ½ ambulances at night and 3 ambulances during the day. That is why the overtime costs us so much. When one is sick or when I discipline one or one goes on vacation we have to call somebody in.”

Commissioner Travis stated “One thing that will help as far as saving money over there is if you knew what kind of call you are going on before you left the EMS base. If it comes in as an emergency call and it is only a person that is sick and needs to go to the hospital I mean unless you know that little ambulance is not going to help you.” Mr. Sicz responded “That is correct. We don’t really ever know.” Commissioner Travis continued “Well let me give you an example and this is the way I look at it. You had one on Pagetown Road and the guy wanted to go to Burlington and they said we can’t take you anywhere but Reidsville. If you would have known the type of call you could have transferred him on to Burlington if you would have had that little ambulance, you would have got paid and the county would have got money but on that call nobody got nothing.” Mr. Sicz responded “Yes sir that is exactly correct.” Commissioner Travis stated “To me that is wasting money.” Mr. Sicz responded “I understand. We get dispatched for emergency or non-emergency but we never know until we get there and not to make light of any medical situation and you might have experienced this. You get a call that I am sick or I have fallen and you get there and the person is not breathing. One of the first call I actually went on as the director here was a person is having breathing problems. We got 2/3 of the way there and the person that got there was doing CPR. You really never know if it is an emergency or a non-emergency.” Commissioner Travis continued “That is just like you go to a 1050 down here at the intersection it may not be anybody hurt but they may want to go to the hospital.” Mr. Sicz responded “Yes sir so what we would do is call this truck and let them take him to the hospital.” Commissioner Travis stated “But see that close would not be that bad but what is that wreck is all the way down at Prospect Hill, you can’t afford to call that truck to come down there. We are tying up two trucks doing that. That is doubling your money running up and down the road.” Mr. Sicz responded “Yes sir.” Commissioner Travis stated “But if you really know you could save the county money and you could make the county money. I don’t know how you would do it. It would have to be done through 911.” Mr. Sicz responded “Yes sir, roughly 32% of our calls we get nothing on. It is either no patient show or he does not want to go or various other

reasons. Dispatch does a very good job with the information they get. Again no disrespect intended but if you sit in there for a period of time like during the rain storm we just had they did an excellent job. A dispatcher received a phone call from a lady that had a splinter in her finger and she demanded an ambulance come out there. They handled it very well and that lady probably still has a splinter in her finger.” Chair Lucas stated “Well that should improve as well with the upgrades that 911 is going to have because their questions will be standardized to hopefully be more efficient.”

Mr. Sicz stated “I am not big on compromising but if I have to I certainly do not need my car. I mean that is in the budget somewhere. I don’t need that. I will continue to drive my Mazda.”

Commissioner Carter asked “Have ya’ll got that white truck fixed?” Mr. Sicz responded “Not yet. We are waiting for the new budget year to fix that.”

Mr. Sicz stated “If it came down to where you would only give me two people, I would want my training officer and the multi-purpose person because that is where I can make and save money.”

Commissioner Jefferies asked “Did you ask for a new pick up?” Mr. Sicz responded “No sir.” Mr. Howard responded “There is money in there to fix one in the budget.” Commissioner Jefferies continued “I go to a lot of places from New York to Florida and I don’t see a lot of those big boxes like we have here. They have to have some of the same problems we have and the work with it. I know we have big ambulances.” Mr. Sicz responded “And we don’t need those. As long as I am here we will never get another ambulance that size. The big ones like our International and then there are medium size ones like 202, 203 and 205. Those are the types of ambulances for this area we should have except for a covalence that is where the sprinters would do an excellent job. We do not need the big massive ambulance.”

Chair Lucas stated “Thank you Director Sicz.”

SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

Chair Lucas stated “Next we will hear from Sheriff Welch. Welcome.” Sheriff Welch responded “Thank you.” Chair Lucas continued “We had some discussions about your budget and it came down to where you asked for 5 vehicles?” Sheriff Welch responded “I asked for 6.” Chair Lucas asked “Where did I see 5?” Commissioner Travis responded “On this piece of paper.” Chair Lucas stated “The county manager’s recommendation. I guess the question is how they would be utilized? That is what some of the concern was. What would be replaced?” Sheriff Welch responded “Thanks for the opportunity to come in front of you at this workshop. As far as the Sheriff’s office budget and the patrol cars we started out asking for 6 patrol vehicles and actually 1 was cut during the process. Basically they will be utilized for the patrol division and then we will make moves from the patrol division through the other divisions and then we will surplus through the county’s fixed assets at the discretion of the Board and county manager to disperse.” Chair Lucas asked “So how many of those will you eliminate?” Sheriff Welch responded “We will replace if the Board awards us 5 we will replace 5 vehicles and then take what is best and move it through the other divisions in the Sheriff’s office and then we will surplus to be turned over to the county as far as fixed assets. At that point it can be declared at

the discretion of this Board. Last year we did not request any vehicles except for one and we used DEA asset forfeiture to purchase that vehicle.”

Chair Lucas stated “I read in here somewhere I think you have the description of the vehicle and what it included?” Sheriff Welch responded “Yes it is a 2013 patrol package.” Chair Lucas continued “And what kind of vehicle is it?” Sheriff Welch responded “It is going to be a Dodge Charger, 2013.”

Commissioner Carter asked “I think the manager listed \$152,980 for 5 is that right?” Commissioner Travis responded “That is what he has in here.” Chair Lucas asked “So the unit price is \$28,704?” Commissioner Travis asked “Does that include stripping and everything?” Sheriff Welch responded “The unit price is \$30,596.12 and that includes everything, fully packaged.” Chair Lucas stated “That has the graphics, the computer mount, flash lights, tax and tags.” Sheriff Welch responded “That is correct.” Commissioner Travis asked “That does not include the computer and all does it?” Sheriff Welch responded “No.” Commissioner Travis continued “Some of those will be coming out of the other cars?” Sheriff Welch responded “That is correct plus we are working on other projects through 911 funds to finish the data computers in the patrol division. It also upgrades to the mobile pack which is a GIS system through the CAD that is a partnership we are working through 911 and the fire departments and EMS.”

Chair Lucas asked “So within your budget is there 2 positions being included?” Sheriff Welch responded “Last year I had requested additional staff for courthouse security. One position was funded ½ through PCC and the other ½ through LAP salary which is funding that was left over from the Town of Yanceyville. Then there was one position that went unfilled and yes the budget does include those two positions and then the follow up with courthouse security to implement that.” Chair Lucas continued “So we had the funding in the budget last year for the other position or we did not? We did and it was not filled.” Sheriff Welch responded “Right. There was one that was funded out of last year’s budget and then one that was never filled pending courthouse security. That is correct.”

Chair Lucas asked “I think it was mentioned Sheriff that you are planning to do some sort of restructuring within your department. Can you share that with us and sort of give us an overview of what your plans are?” Sheriff Welch responded “Some. Some of it has not been finalized and it depends upon the Board’s approval as far as the budget goes. Of course the budget includes the Sheriff’s office and the detention facility so basically you are looking at the detention center where you have to have the right structure in place. When we requested the additional positions we have to make sure that we have supervisors in place as far as the policies and procedures go and actually the team coordinator, Tony Durden, for the transition unit it is my intentions that he will become the jail administrator. Then at that point you also have other detention officers that will assume management positions and supervisor positions.” Chair Lucas continued “I think we are more focused on the Sheriff’s Department. I know they are both grouped together. I know you have your zones established, are you still maintaining those zones?” Sheriff Welch responded “Except for the Town of Yanceyville as far as the funding goes for that 5th zone. That zone does exist and then we actually man that zone with personnel as far as the 5th zone. It depends on all the restructuring. One thing with the courthouse security will be going to restructure and place courthouse security along with the organizational chart to include in the

detention as far as supporting one another and also with the Sheriff's office. Basically when you look at it you have the different divisions. Is that what you are asking?" Chair Lucas asked "You are still in the process of putting it together is that what you are saying, the restructuring?" Sheriff Welch responded "Well it is all budget driven. The basic restructure..." Chair Lucas continued "I guess it had to do with the raises, there were some indications that there might be some raises in your budget because of a restructuring that you were going to do." Sheriff Welch responded "There have been other positions that have not been filled but they are apparent in the budget process and labeled as such which would be a promotion."

Commissioner Hall asked "I just have one question. We have had several delays in the jail project and it is my understanding that we have got people on board who have started the training process so when we open this project. What have you done if anything to mitigate the cost while we are waiting? Let's assume that there is another delay for another two or three months, what can you do to mitigate the labor cost?" Sheriff Welch responded "Well one thing the technology if you go up in the control room each staff member has to be trained on how to work the computer system." Commissioner Hall continued "I am talking about before we open the jail?" Sheriff Welch responded "One thing to give you an example is we have gotten Simplex Gunnell to come in so as the construction workers are working we have had the staff to come in and actually train, the new staff and the existing staff." Commissioner Hall stated "Maybe I am not clear. Let's say that we have 5 people that we anticipated that it was going to take 3 months for training and now it has been 4 months and we still have 5 people so my question is after those 3 months of training that we anticipated how do we mitigate the cost until the day we open the jail?" Sheriff Welch responded "Well right now up until this point Commissioner Hall what we have been doing is using every opportunity to train whether it is on the policy and procedure manual, the technology, the processes of actually going on site, we have done some simulation training on technology in the conference room and we are doing checks to make sure that everybody is grasping because it is changing all of our policies and procedures through those consultants. Probably if we look at another delay then it would require me to actually work with the team, the transition team to come up with some kind of proposal for the commissioners."

Commissioner Carter asked "What kind of revenue are you expecting when we get into the new jail? I know you will be housing federal and state inmates." Sheriff Welch responded "We gave a and this is probably more up to date a little over a year of revenue for 10 beds in the old jail which is roughly \$230,000 revenue and to remind the Board you had placed that in a contingency fund to help offset the operating cost that was part of the last budget process. We have included the intentions to expand so once the budget is adopted we will work with the US Marshals to increase our daily rate through the contract and it is based on your annual budget but it has to be in the budget for the new facility so we are in plans with working with that. Lt. Durden has been in touch with the US Marshals to do that and we also participate in the Statewide Misdemeanor program which is another revenue source through the state. So basically with the projections we plan to increase the number of beds that we actually rent out either to the feds or to the state." Commissioner Carter continued "So you don't have any idea on what the revenue would be. Do you have enough revenue to pay for the jail?" Sheriff Welch responded "\$492,750 in revenue is what I projected for one full fiscal year." Chair Lucas asked "For the upcoming year that is what you have projected?" Sheriff Welch responded "That is depending

on the time line of when we actually have everything in place.” Chair Lucas stated “Commissioner Carter to answer your question the payment for this upcoming fiscal year is \$726,631.” Commissioner Travis stated “So we will be over \$300,000 short.”

Chair Lucas asked “Since we are on the detention center Sheriff we had a question when we went through the budget about the contracted fee services which is one category at \$156,000 but we did not get an answer on lodging and meals which is another \$15,000 do you know what that is?” Sheriff Welch responded “That is safe keeping. When we have to make arrangements with the state to provide housing in those situations. You have two main contracted services. One would be medical cost and the other is lodging and we still actually participate with Dan River. They have been very gracious to work with us.” Chair Lucas asked “Does this have anything to do with the juveniles because there was some...” Sheriff Welch responded “No.” Chair Lucas continued “Okay. Some thought it might have something to do with that.” Sheriff Welch responded “No let’s say we have to keep one in central prison for safe keeping then we are responsible to pay for that bill.”

Chair Lucas asked “Any other questions? I guess back to the positions that have been there since September, it is 9, is that right?” Sheriff Welch responded “That is correct.” Chair Lucas continued “And on a daily basis they are training is what you are saying.” Sheriff Welch responded “They are assigned to the shifts and then there are some other things going on that are a matter of human resources that will need to be addressed.” Commissioner Travis stated “These people ought to be ready to go when we do open it up.” Sheriff Welch responded “That is the game plan.” Commissioner Hamlett stated “We can blame it on you but it ain’t your fault.” Commissioner Travis asked “Whose fault is it?” Commissioner Hamlett responded Ya’ll’s. But it ain’t your fault Mike. I know you are ready to go in there.” Sheriff Welch responded “I am ready. I appreciate all the hard work.” Commissioner Jefferies asked “Do you have the staff ready to go when they turn it lose? Are you planning to hire some additional trained staff to put on the monitors?” Sheriff Welch responded “No Commissioner Jefferies. We plan to be ready to make the move. We have been doing things with the transition team and then we have had two consultants through the architects that have prepared all the policy and procedure manuals, the training, the signage, and trying to work through those. We have some things that might not be ready and that is the partnership with the highway patrol and the intoxilizer but we have been working with them. AOC has been handling the magistrate’s office and connecting it through AOC and the courthouse. We really would like to see the courthouse security project completed around about the same time so we can start working on that too. So yes sir the staff has been very dedicated and working hard to make sure that we are ready for the move but they know when it comes we have to be ready.”

Commissioner Hamlett asked “I think everybody is concerned about this. How many cars did you get last year, 6?” Sheriff Welch responded “Zero. I did not ask for any except for one and we paid for that one out of the DEA asset forfeiture fund. In the past to have a rotation with the vehicles it would average anywhere from 6 to 8 to try to keep the vehicles rotated out because of the mileage. We have seen a change from when the town contracted and we had that fifth zone all the savings that everybody experienced occurred during that time period. During the time now we 4 assigned to each patrol shift we are still averaging with the cost of fuel and also with the wear and tear on the vehicles the mileage. We are looking at anywhere from 6 to 8 and we

asked for 6 this time because of everything that is going on right in such tough economic times. We really needed 8.” Commissioner Hamlett continued “When you get your cars do you assign it to the ones that have the most mileage on it? Is that what you try to do?” Sheriff Welch responded “We try to replace on the patrol division first and then everybody else we try to work through the needs of the Sheriff’s office.” Chair Lucas asked “What is the highest mileage car you have done there? Do you have any idea?” Sheriff Welch responded “I know the list was provided but I don’t have that with me right now.” Chair Lucas continued “We have a list but it does not have the mileage on it though.” Sheriff Welch responded “It will probably be around 160,000. We really need to start looking at the SRO vehicles even though they don’t have high mileage they have been in operation for multiple years so we really need to start looking at those vehicles.”

Commissioner Jefferies asked “Sheriff have you ever looked into leasing? Is the leasing cheaper than buying?” Sheriff Welch responded “Commissioner Jefferies we did look at that and when we did it with the Dodge Intrepids it definitely was a savings to the county. Those vehicles did last as long as they were tended to. When we looked at it, it bought us time working together to have a couple of years almost 3 years before we had to start replacing on a regular cycle.” Chair Lucas asked “Why did we stop the leasing program or do you know?” Sheriff Welch responded “That was a solution at the time based on the number of vehicles. We had vehicles with over 200,000 miles on them so we are looking at getting to a point to where we could start a rotation.” Mr. Howard stated “I was not here when you did the Intrepids but we did the same thing where I was working. Intrepids were much cheaper than the other patrol cars you could buy. There was almost a \$10,000 difference in the cost of an Intrepid when they came out it was less than the cost of a Crown Vic. What you saved was in the price of the vehicle and not in the lease purchase or a lease. Those vehicles were a lot cheaper than what else was out there.” Commissioner Carter stated “They had a lot of trouble with the brakes and transmission.” Mr. Howard responded “They did not hold up. A lot of places went to them because you could buy 3 for the price of two when you bought those.” Sheriff Welch stated “It was \$19,313 base price.” Mr. Howard stated “We actually bought some when I was in Spencer for \$16,000 a piece which is half of what you would pay for a patrol car now.” Sheriff Welch stated “We actually had to get special brakes for them.”

Chair Lucas asked “Do you have any vacancies in the department currently?” Sheriff Welch responded “We have one and that is on the Sheriff’s office side and not the detention center.”

Chair Lucas asked “The request for the courthouse security, the \$24,000, what did that include?” Sheriff Welch responded “We actually had quotes at one time and then we had to get updated quotes. Basically based on the Courthouse Security Committee they were recommending card readers, panic bars and upgrading the cameras within the courthouse. Once the Board decides on whether to lock the courthouse down and to restrict the entrances and exits to one set of doors. I actually have 3 quotes so I will give these to the county manager.” Chair Lucas asked “You have 3 quotes?” Sheriff Welch responded “Three different quotes for the work.” Chair Lucas continued “You actually have 3 quotes?” Sheriff Welch responded “I hope that is a good thing.” Chair Lucas stated “It is wonderful to have 3 quotes.” Sheriff Welch stated “There is one thing I would like to point out. There was one quote from Strategic Security Solutions and I have a requirement to sign a contract for maintenance so if they are awarded the work that means that a

local business can actually work on that equipment instead of only have a maintenance agreement with the contractor providing it.”

Commissioner Hamlett asked “How many doors do you have down there?” Mr. Howard responded “Four. One upstairs and three downstairs.”

Sheriff Welch stated “The game plan is to man the metal detector and to have it set up to where the courthouse is locked down.” Commissioner Hamlett asked “Could you do it right now on the two doors at the bottom?” Sheriff Welch responded “The panic bars are for the bottom doors and all the employees would get the card readers and they would have to be assigned and that is what the courthouse security can be working on. These are the minimum requirements to get everything going.” Commissioner Hamlett continued “Where would the cameras be? Who will be watching them?” Sheriff Welch responded “Some of them are recorded and they are analog and these quotes actually include upgrades to IP. Downstairs in the civil office has access to the monitors to view and also with the additional staff they would have courthouse lock down with that additional staffing.” Commissioner Hamlett asked “Don’t the magistrates have cameras now?” Sheriff Welch responded “The magistrates, where it is right now Commissioner Hamlett they are looking at basically how that office will be utilized and then moving the magistrates down to our building so that magistrates office in the new building has already been set up or being set up with the fiber optics and the camera connections and the intercoms. They will have the ability to access the state through the data base. I don’t know what the decision is at this point how that room will be utilized.” Commissioner Hamlett continued “So that room will be vacant?” Sheriff Welch responded “I am sure they have a purpose for it.” Chair Lucas stated “We have already been told they are planning to use it for small claims court.” Mr. Howard added “They will also use it as an extra court room on days for small cases.”

Chair Lucas asked “So Sheriff at this point is the administrative side complete and ready to move into at the detention center?” Sheriff Welch responded “They did a limited occupancy so we could actually train in the control booth but a c of o no.” Chair Lucas continued “So what is your opinion right now as far as what you see left to be done?” Sheriff Welch responded “I walked through it this morning and I do that on a regular basis.” Chair Lucas stated “I know you do and that is why I would appreciate your opinion.” Sheriff Welch responded “I know they were working on the epoxy in the laundry room and kitchen. If you look at how the floors have been done they are using another process for the walls. That is a major process that requires time to set up and the epoxy to harden.” Commissioner Hamlett stated “Me and Jeremiah were down there last week and we saw the kitchen and it looked good.” Sheriff Welch stated “The way it was set up in the contracts evidently one contractor did the walls and then one contractor did the floors. It looks really nice.”

Commissioner Jefferies asked “Is it going to be where the magistrate can spend the night there?” Sheriff Welch responded “I believe Commissioner Jefferies that they are working out the procedures on how it is going to work as far as the magistrate’s schedule, how much time they will spend there, access from the public and we are working with 911 for our phone system as far as after hours and how everything is going to work. I know that 911 is doing something. Everybody is kind of depending on everybody else’s time schedule to get things done but everybody is communicating.”

Chair Lucas asked “Are you aware that we are entertaining securing some legal counsel to go back and sort of recoup some of the challenges we have experienced throughout this process and we are at a point of making that decision as to whether we are going to do it or not.” Sheriff Welch responded “It has been communicated. I was talking about the communication between 911 and the court system and everything that is going on there. I know we have contact with the construction manager. As far as a time in looking at what is still needed to be done probably we will know more within the next two weeks. I know they are working and they worked this weekend on the epoxy in the kitchen, showers and the laundry room and that is on the walls and actually in the jail intake. We are having daily briefings to see where we are at. If there is something that needs to be brought to the Board’s attention we will go through the county manager.”

Chair Lucas asked “Any other questions or comments for the Sheriff? Do you have anything else you would like to share with us?” Sheriff Welch stated “I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank the Board for working with me.”

Commissioner Hamlett asked “Mike if you could find out how many miles you have on some of those cars it would be helpful?” Chair Lucas stated “Well your 2007, 2008 and 2009 Chargers are probably no you have Chargers and Crown Vics.” Sheriff Welch responded “We have two Chargers from the highway patrol. We have some Crown Vics. We try to look at every cost saving step we can take. I will definitely get the mileage to you.” Commissioner Hamlett stated “Just get us the top 3 or 5. That would be nice to know.”

Chair Lucas stated “Thank you very much.”

RECESS

The Board took a brief recess.

PUBLIC HEARING – CASVILLE VFD SPECIAL FIRE TAX INCREASE

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis that the Board enter into a public hearing to receive comments on the Casville Volunteer Fire Department’s Request to increase the Special Fire Tax in Casville. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Lucas stated “The time now is 6:35. I was told earlier that there would be a representative from the fire department here so I am going to give them the benefit of doubt just in case they are running a few minutes late.”

Chair Lucas asked “Do any of the commissioners have any comments about the proposed fire tax increase?”

Commissioner Carter stated “I talked with a couple of the fireman and they said there was a need.”

Chair Lucas stated "And I understand there is a conflict tonight with their annual meeting that they are having. That is why there is probably no representation here in numbers."

Commissioner Travis stated "Well my biggest reason for asking for this public hearing was because the people over there voted this thing in and I wanted to see if the people were for it or against it. I guess they must be for it because I don't see anybody here to talk to us. Evidently they are okay with it. That is what I am getting at."

Commissioner Hall asked "Other than advertising in the paper did we do anything with it?" Commissioner Travis responded "No." Commissioner Jefferies stated "I saw it in the paper." Commissioner Travis added "I did too. I wanted to make sure it was in the paper."

Commissioner Hamlett stated "Travis you talked to some people about it." Commissioner Travis responded "I talked to a guy about it in my shop. He knew all about it. That guy runs a store over there and I even gave that piece of paper and told him to take it over there because I thought it was public information." Commissioner Hamlett asked "So they know about it right?" Commissioner Travis responded "Yes. I was hoping that someone would come to be for it or against or something."

Chair Lucas stated "Gentlemen we are currently sitting in the public hearing. There is nobody from the public that is signed up to speak." Mr. Charlie King stated "The doors are locked." Chair Lucas responded "We were not aware of that." Commissioner Travis asked "Was the front door locked too?" Mr. King responded "NO."

Commissioner Carter asked "Charlie are you and Mitch Foster going to speak?" Mr. King responded "We were going to speak if someone showed up."

Chair Lucas asked "Do you gentlemen care to speak?" Both responded no.

Commissioner Jefferies moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Lucas stated "Thank you for your time coming over."

Commissioner Travis stated "I think we need to vote on it now, one way or the other right now."

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter to approve the Special Fire Tax increase for Casville.

Commissioner Hall stated "I have got some concerns but they are not necessarily major concerns but the fact that nobody is here against it does not mean that it is necessarily the right thing to do. The fact that we had someone here that may have spoken for it and they chose not to speak I don't know it just gives me a weird feeling. If you have something positive to say about something it seems to me the thing to do would have been to say it. But to only rebut what somebody else has to say is not the way you do business I thought." Commissioner Travis responded "Well when this thing was put up for a vote and those people over there voted it in it

was set up then that it could be raised as high as 15 cents before it would come back to the people to vote on it again. We are in charge of passing it or not passing it and the reason I wanted the public hearing is to get some input from the people and evidently they are satisfied with it because they are not here against it.”

Chair Lucas stated “I think Commissioner Hall’s concern is was there awareness with the people other than the advertisement. I know the opportunity was there.” Commissioner Travis responded “This is the same way we advertise for every public hearing we have in Caswell County. We do not go out there and tell about. It is always in the same place in the paper and that is the way I see it.”

Commissioner Hall stated “One final comment. The fact that we had the public hearing tonight and it was one of the things that I wanted to see but that did not mean to me that we needed to vote tonight. That is the only reason I am raising this. I mean you are fact finding and gathering information then do the fact finding and gather the information don’t decide that no information means it is time to move.” Chair Lucas added “There would be no harm I don’t think in holding it until we vote on the budget.” Commissioner Travis stated “This fire tax has nothing to do with nobody but the people in Casville. It is separate from the budget.” Chair Lucas responded “In some regards but it is part of the budget. Kevin?” Mr. Howard added “It is separate from the budget but is a part of the budget. If it is approved it will have to be added to the taxes that will be mailed out in late July.” Commissioner Carter stated “Well Casville will get the money. It will not affect us because the money is going to Casville.”

Upon a vote on the motion, the motion carried by a vote of six to one with Commissioner Hall voting no.

Chair Lucas asked “Kevin since we have the full board here can you review again with us what you initially told us concerning the changes that you found out about today in the tax valuation and calculation.”

Mr. Howard stated “As I stated earlier I have you my proposed budget the first part of May based on last year’s tax valuations because I had not received the numbers from the tax office yet. Around the 14th or 15th of May we got the values from the tax office of \$1,609,000,000 in total property value. We asked several times if these numbers were accurate and they said they did. We asked about a week and a half ago and he ran the numbers again and the reports again and that number dropped \$1,494,000,000 total value which is about a decrease of about \$115,000,000 which equates to about \$738,752 in lost revenues for tax revenues. That means going from what we thought was about a \$600,000 surplus to having to found about \$160,000.”

Chair Lucas asked “We have a deficit of \$160,000 that we have to make up. Do we have more precise information as to how this happened?” Mr. Howard responded “I found out about it between 3:30 or 3:45. What I was told was the report he ran did not remove the deferred values and example would be the homestead exemption or an Ag. exemption. It basically gave me the total value for the county without taking out those that are not figured in the tax rates. Now we are working on some other things to double check these numbers.” Chair Lucas continued “So does this throw off collection rates and everything?” Mr. Howard responded “No it does not

throw off the collection rates. If we had not caught it this year it would have really mess up the collection rates for next year.”

Commissioner Hamlett asked “A 1% tax increase would be how much?” Chair Lucas responded “\$150,000.”

Chair Lucas asked “Kevin do you have any recommendations on where to take the cuts from? I have a recommendation, go back to the department heads and ask them to cut 10% out of their overall budget. Let them make the cut and bring it back to us.” Commissioner Travis asked “How much would that be?” Chair Lucas responded “Look at your total budget amount.” Mr. Howard responded “Some departments do not have 10% to cut. If you take a person department and 80% of their budget is their salary there is not 10% in there to cut.” Chair Lucas continued “Okay can you identify those departments?” Mr. Howard responded “Planning...” Chair Lucas stated “I know the Register of Deeds’ budget is tight.” Mr. Howard continued “Building Inspections and most of the small departments.” Chair Lucas asked “So which budgets could stand a 10% cut?” Mr. Howard responded “I would agree if you want to continue services, none at 10%.” Chair Lucas continued “Okay. Total up all the travel budgets.”

Commissioner Hall stated “Madam Chairman, I think this approach is all together off for running a business operation. Two things we need to do and we need to deal with first things first. We need to get the tax director in here and find out what happened and hold him accountable for what happened. That needs to happen. The next thing we need to do, your assumption based on the questions that I am hearing you are assuming that we plan to fund everything in here that the budget officer submitted to us. We may have to regroup and decide that we are not going to fund everything. You can’t do it by a percentage because most of our departments are salaries. We are going to have to make some decisions about some big dollars, be it vehicles, be it School Board, where the money is. The third thing is we need to decide if we don’t want to do that then raise the taxes. It is as simple as that but you just can’t go and say well we will take 10% here or take travel there we don’t have that much money. You will cripple operations trying to look at line items.” Chair Lucas responded “I know but I beg to differ with you.” Commissioner Hall continued “I know you differ because you said it but that is not a way to run a railroad.” Chair Lucas responded “I know that we have been adding to our fund balance which is a positive thing but when we over budget every year according to our audit a half a million dollars there is room to take some money out of the budget.” Commissioner Hall stated “That is an option but let’s deal with the real options. Looking at a travel line is not a real option. If you want to take it out of fund balance, take it out of fund balance. If you want to raise the taxes, raise the taxes but the tax director needs to be brought in and held accountable. We are trying to work up a fix and we don’t know what the real problem is.”

Commissioner Carter stated “Well we have the option of taking it out of fund balance plus there is an option to take it out of Solid Waste as far as vehicles. Our fund balance 8 years ago was 8% and now it is up to 24 or 25%.”

Chair Lucas asked “What is the total cost for the 2 positions in the Sheriff’s Department?” Mr. Howard responded “Salaries and benefits probably between \$65,000 and \$70,000.”

Commissioner Carter stated "My idea would be at the next budget work session to have the county manager to work up a proposal and bring it back to this Board on how to met the budget and how to fund the school board and the vehicles and things like that instead of us harping on it all night I think it would be best for the county manager to come up with a proposal." Chair Lucas responded "Well I have been looking at the budget all weekend and just going through it by departments and I know the sentiment is that we don't want to cut our services any but when I see there is a part time salary for Emergency Management for \$2,000 and I know that is not a lot but \$2,000 adds up here and there. I don't think that is warranted. The state cut the Emergency Management training budget. He requested \$5,000, Kevin approved \$3,000. Well if the state is cutting the training why does the county have to pick it up?" Commissioner Carter asked "Why didn't you bring that up when we were talking with EMS? Every meeting we have you come up with a line item out of the budget why didn't you bring that up when we were talking with EMS?" Chair Lucas responded "I am studying this." Commissioner Carter continued "That is the reason why we can't get a budget passed. You don't have enough to do like some of the rest of us do. Every meeting we have had you bring up another line item." Chair Lucas asked "What did you say?" Commissioner Carter responded "You heard what I said."

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to have the county manager to work on a proposal and to bring it back to the Board at the next budget work session.

Chair Lucas asked "Do you want to leave the two positions in the Sheriff's department's budget? You want to leave \$75,000 in the EMS part time salary budget?" Commissioner Carter responded "What the county manager has proposed, it is up to him to come back with the proposal." Chair Lucas stated "No it is up to us as individual commissioners to review this budget and go through it and make recommended cuts."

Chair Lucas asked "When would that be?" Commissioner Carter responded "That is up to this Board." Chair Lucas continued "Well it seems like we are hearing we have worked for two hours and we have not worked on this budget for more than 2 hours at one time but anyway."

Commissioner Hall stated "Just a thought or a comment. With that motion if we are going to do that I think if there is something that we feel strongly for or against we need to tell the county manager now as opposed to letting him go through this process again and then coming back to say well I don't like this or I don't like that because he can't read our minds. That is why I said my earlier comment was we are starting this with the assumption that we were going to approve everything he proposed and I don't know necessarily we had that in mind." Chair Lucas responded "That was not my assumption. Are you referring that was an assumption coming from me?" Commissioner Hall responded "No, well a part of it I am because you started dealing with the line items." Chair Lucas stated "I don't know why everybody is put off by looking at the budget by line items, I just don't understand that." Commissioner Hall responded "I am not put off by looking at them but I think practically speaking you don't want to cripple a department." Chair Lucas stated "Some of the departments cannot withstand a cut and I understand that and I recognize those departments and know which ones they are and Kevin the ones that you mentioned are those departments. I understand that completely but there are departments that I think could withstand some changes in their budget. Just like do we want to include the ROTC program funds since they do not have that program in place any more. That is

a \$20,000 savings right there in the school budget.” Commissioner Hall responded “And that is what I mean about that we are not assuming that we were going to approve everything that he presented so if that is an item for discussion and at least in my mind it is then let’s let the county manager know that. That is a pretty good chunk of dollars.

Commissioner Travis stated “Kevin can probably sit right there now and tell us where we can cut most of this out of this thing in just a few minutes.” Chair Lucas responded “It is up to us, what we take out of it.” Commissioner Travis continued “I understand that.” Commissioner Hamlett stated “We have about five big things that we can discuss.” Commissioner Travis stated “Well if we are going to make the final decisions then we might as well cut it and be done with it ourselves.” Commissioner Hamlett stated “Like Nate said we have and Cathy too we have about five big things: do you want 2 ambulances or do you want 1, do want 2 positions at the Sheriff’s department or do you want none, that is the big things you can cut tonight.”

Commissioner Carter stated “I think we can take it out of fund balance and solid waste where you want have to have a tax increase.” Commissioner Travis responded “I have not said anything about a tax increase.”

Commissioner Hamlett stated “If you are going to give Kevin some directions, do we want 2 ambulances or do we want 1 or do we want any?” Commissioner Jefferies stated “Let him come up with his proposal.”

Commissioner Travis asked “What directions are we going to leave here tonight what are we going to tell him to cut out of it?” Chair Lucas responded “Well apparently it is up to his discretion. That is the way I understood the motion.” Commissioner Travis continued “Well Kevin could bring us a proposal tomorrow and we could say we don’t like it. We will be here until the last minute if we don’t tell him what we want to take out of it.”

Commissioner Hall stated “We know that is a possibility Mr. Travis. When I say direction if I were sitting there I would not want you to ask me in 5 minutes to cut the budget by a hundred and some thousand dollars without giving it some thought and without giving me some direction. He is still going to do what he has to do and we are still going to have to go back and make a decision. Now what I have to do also in my mind, the county manager gave us some figures and I don’t know if they were all inclusive or if it was something that he came up with afterwards. I will give you an example so that you can see where I am. There was some monies in the budget for an economic developer is that in here or is that something that was...” Mr. Howard responded “That came out when we got the new numbers from the tax office.” Commissioner Hall stated “That is what I mean by getting things straight in my head. We have had so many budgets come at us I can’t separate in my mind which ones we are talking about versus which ones we have added to. Some of this we are still going to need to do. The fact that the six hundred thousand plus is not there does not change some of these needs. We will have to make a decision about fund balance or a tax increase.” Chair Lucas stated “We need a proposal both ways.”

Chair Lucas stated “The motion is for the county manager to bring back a proposal back to the Board. I was going to ask him to include two options either by the option of a tax increase or

taking it from fund balance.” Commissioner Carter responded “You have more than 2 options. You can take it from solid waste.

The Clerk restated the motion.

Upon a vote of the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Lucas asked “Is there any need to discuss personnel tonight?” Commissioner Hall responded “I think so.”

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Hall to consider the compensation, terms of appointment and performance of an individual public officer (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)). The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION

Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Williamson to resume regular session. The motion carried unanimously.

The next budget work session will be Wednesday, June 26th at 5:30 p.m.

RECESS

At 7:15 p.m. Commissioner Hamlett moved, seconded by Commissioner Jefferies to recess the budget work session until Wednesday, June 26, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Paula P. Seamster
Clerk to the Board

Cathy W. Lucas
Chair
